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music

Get Out's guide to the brightest stars on the local music scene

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From the stages of local clubs to headlining national tours, a Top 5 single with "The Middle" and a million-plus-selling self-titled album, Mesa modern rock quartet Jimmy Eat World is the latest Valley music success story, but they're far from the only one.

With a host of live music clubs and plenty of bands in a wide variety of genres to fill them, our local music scene is stronger than ever. Here's a quick primer on some of the major players.

Punk

One of the most vibrant genres going locally, the punk scene even supports its own local networking Web site, www.azpunk.com. Authority Zero, a Mesa four-piece, graduated to the big leagues and released their national debut late last year and have spent the majority of their time since then touring the country to support it. You can still catch them playing crowd favorites "One More Minute" and "Over Seasons" in town occasionally. Other noteworthy punk bands: Redfield, No Gimmick, Northside Kings, Fourbanger, Mourning Maxwell, Sixth Year Senior, Oktober, Logik and Spindle.

Authority Zero is currently on tour. Check www.authorityzero.com for their latest news.

Rock

With so many permutations of the music, it's hard to say what a straight-up rock 'n' roll band is anymore, so we've made our criteria a blistering live show. Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers have been a top local draw for years because of the blood, sweat and tears they put into their concerts. The Peacemakers (led by the charismatic Clyne, who formerly fronted the Refreshments, known for their hit "Banditos") is made up of local all stars, and they've all crisscrossed the country multiple times supporting three independently released albums. Other showstopping acts: the reunited Gin Blossoms, Before Braille, Ticker Tape Parade, Gift, the Sandrails and Fivespeed, who are about to release their national debut.

Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers are currently on tour. Check www.azpeacemakers.com for their latest news.

Hip-hop

While urban-born music has overwhelmed MTV and the pop charts, it still has growing pains locally. That's not to say there aren't excellent acts — there just aren't as many of them when compared to other genres. The one to watch currently is Atllas, whose debut CD "The King of AZ" will be released this week. Blending a classical music fanfare and lyrics describing the virtues of local notoriety, his song "Hood Famous" sounds like nothing that came before it and has already garnered airplay on KKFR (92.3 FM). Others to keep an eye on: Pokafase — who's awaiting the release of his already-recorded national debut disc "Mastermind" — and his crew the League, Nexxis and Star Beav & Erocc'n.

Atllas CD release party 8 p.m. Friday at Alice Cooper'stown, 101 E. Jackson St., Phoenix, (602) 253-7337. $5, all ages.

Rap rock

The evil spawn of the rap and rock genres has plenty of local practitioners. Illegal Substance just released their national debut this summer, and the duo of P-Nut and Adverb, augmented by DJ Jimi Numonic, have infectious energy to spare. Proof? Their tune "Step to the Floor" was recently used on ESPN's "Sportscenter" beneath a montage of clips called the "Ultimate Highlight." Other players: Phunk Junkeez (who were playing this music before the genre had a name), E Bomb, Bionic Jive and Trik Turner — the last two of which released major-label national albums in the last two years but are currently seeking new deals.

Illegal Substance performs 8 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Old Brickhouse, 1 E. Jackson St, Phoenix, (602) 258-7888. $10, all ages.

Country

Between traditional country bands and so-called "alternative" country bands, this genre is flourishing locally. Flathead is a rockin' trio that neatly straddles the line between those two styles. Led by gifted guitarist Greg Swanholm, the group has amassed more than a decade of experience and shows no signs of slowing down. Other pickers, grinners and sinners — country music winners, that is: Trophy Husbands, the Nitpickers, Harry Luge, Rickiejoleen, Cody Macy, Rhonda Towns, Mogollon and J. Michael Harter, who released his national debut last year.

Flathead performs 8 p.m. Oct. 18 at Nita's Hideaway, 3300 S. Price Road, Tempe, (480) 966-7715. $5.

Pop

Good pop music is not necessarily popular, though in a perfect world it probably would be. Relying on classic songwriting conventions such as melody, hooks and intelligent lyrics, there are several bands making terrific pop music locally. The Format, a duo of Nate Ruess and Sam Means, will release their national debut on Elektra Records next month, and if their impossibly catchy track "The First Single" makes the same impact nationally that it did locally last year, look for them to hit the big time in short order. Other pop practitioners: Sugar High, Zen Lunatics, the Scones and the Heartgraves.

The Format performs 8 p.m. Saturday at Modified Arts, 407 E. Roosevelt St., Phoenix, (602) 462-5516. $8, all ages.

Reggae